

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 02226 01 OF 02 012238Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12

AID-05 /143 W

-----041894 012317Z /13

R 012234Z JUN 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1716

INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02226

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PORG, CG, UN

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ZAIRE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

SUMMARY: DEPUTY PERMREP OF ZAIRE MISSION TO UN ASKED
AMBASSADOR LEONARD ON MAY 31 TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF
SENDING A FACT-FINDING MISSION TO ZAIRE FOR THE PURPOSE
OF EXAMINING, AND SUBSEQUENTLY PROPOSING, REMEDIES TO
ZAIRE'S PRESSING PROBLEMS. HE WAS OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING
PROSPECTS FOR GETTING THE SHABA MINES QUICKLY FUNCTIONING
AGAIN. HE ACCUSED EAST GERMANS OF PROVIDING AID TO
KATANGESE GENDARMES, AND OF INSTALLING MISSILES IN ANGOLA
ALONG BORDER WITH ZAIRE. THIS CABLE REQUESTS ADVICE ON
PROPOSED US MISSION TO ZAIRE AND FURTHER INFORMATION
REGARDING ALLEGED MISSILES. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 02226 01 OF 02 012238Z

1. AT LUNCH MAY 31 AT HIS REQUEST, BUKAYI MATULOMBELE
BUKETI, DEPUTY PERMREP AT ZAIRE MISSION TO UN, TOLD
AMBASSADOR LEONARD AND MISOFFS THAT ZAIRE WAS IN DIRE NEED
OF SUBSTANTIAL U.S. ASSISTANCE TO HELP ALLEVIATE ITS
MILITARY AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE SAID, QUOTE SPEAKING
FOR MYSELF END QUOTE, THAT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS HE HAD

REMARKED INCREASING RETICENCE ON THE PART OF USG TOWARDS ZAIRE. REFERRING TO THE OBVIOUSLY UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES, BOTH ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC, SHOULD ZAIRE TURN FROM THE WEST, HE INQUIRED OF LEONARD WHETHER WASHINGTON WAS WRITING ZAIRE OFF THE BOOKS.

2. LEONARD DENIED THAT USG WAS TURNING ITS BACK ON ZAIRE, BUT SAID THAT U.S. SAW ZAIRE'S PROBLEMS AS MUCH DEEPER THAN THE INFRASTRUCTURAL AND FINANCIAL WOES DESCRIBED BY BUKETI. THE ZAIRE CIVIL SERVICE AND ARMY HAD A REPUTATION ABROAD WHICH WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR CONGRESS TO INCREASE ASSISTANCE. THE FAZ APPEARS UNDISCIPLINED AND TOO LOOSELY TIED TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, AND THE ADMINISTRATION HAS HAD TOO MANY SCANDALS IN RECENT YEARS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM BUKETI, LEONARD SAID THAT REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE MOBUTU PLAN WOULD BE SIMPLER WERE ZAIRE'S HOUSE MORE IN ORDER, ADDING THAT OF COURSE SHABA TOO ONLY CONFUSED THINGS FURTHER.

3. BUKETI REPLIED THAT GOZ WAS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THE OVERALL SITUATION MIGHT BE IMPROVED. HE PROPOSED --AND THIS SEEMED TO BE THE REASON FOR HIS LUNCHEON INVITATION-- THAT USG SEND A FACT-FINDING MISSION TO ZAIRE --PERHAPS WITH CONGRESSMEN-- TO INVESTIGATE ZAIRE'S PROBLEMS, DISCUSS THEM FRANKLY WITH THE GOZ, AND MAKE PROPOSALS. LEONARD REMARKED AN IMPORTANT DRAWBACK TO SUCH A MISSION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 02226 01 OF 02 012238Z

WOULD BE INEVITABLE ADVERSE PUBLICITY ABOUT ZAIRE THAT WOULD RESULT. THE PRESS MIGHT REPORT IN A WAY UNFLATTERING TO GOZ, AND THE MISSION ITSELF MIGHT HAVE AN EFFECT OPPOSITE TO THAT INTENDED. FURTHERMORE, SUCH A MISSION WOULD HAVE TO BE COORDINATED WITH THE BELGIANS AND THE FRENCH, WHO MIGHT NOT HAVE THE SAME IDEAS AS TO HOW ZAIRE'S PROBLEMS SHOULD BE RECTIFIED, AND GENERALLY WHOM USG WISHES TO LEAVE IN THE LEAD. BUKETI REITERATED HIS CONVICTION THAT SUCH A MISSION, CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED, WOULD PROVE BENEFICIAL TO ZAIRE.

4. TURNING TO SHABA, BUKETI REMARKED THAT MOST BELGIAN SOLDIERS WERE GONE, AS WELL AS MOST OF THE FRENCH. SOME REBELS REMAINED "EN BROUSSE." BUT THE BULK WERE BACK IN ANGOLA WITH STRAGGLERS IN ZAMBIA. HE CLAIMED THE ZAIRE ARMY WAS COPING, AND THAT REPORTS OF PILLAGE ON THE PART OF THE FAZ WERE EXAGGERATED. HE STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT KAUNDA HAD KNOWN OF AND ABETTED --ALBEIT PERHAPS ONLY PASSIVELY-- THE PLANNED PASSAGE OF THE KATANGESE GENDARMES THROUGH ZAMBIA, ADDING BOTH THE CONGO AND SUDAN HAD REFUSED EARLIER REQUESTS FROM THE GENDARMES FOR THE SAME PRIVILEGES. (NOTE: IF THE STATEMENT CONCERNING SUDAN IS

TRUE, THIS WOULD HAVE NECESSITATED AN AIRLIFT, AND HAVE OPENED A NEW FRONT IN HOSTILITIES.) BUKETI CLAIMED THAT DAMAGE TO THE SHABA MINES WAS LESS EXTENSIVE THAN ORIGINALLY BELIEVED. HE SAID A BELGIAN COMPANY ALREADY WAS IN KOLWEZI AND THAT THE MINES WOULD BE RUNNING AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM LEONARD, BUKETI STATED THAT THE GDR HAD BEEN INVOLVED, IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY, IN PREPARING THE PREVIOUS SHABA ATTACK. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE GOZ HAD BROKEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. BUKETI ADDED THAT THE EAST GERMANS HAD INSTALLED SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES IN ANGOLA ALONG THE BORDER WITH ZAIRE. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 02226 02 OF 02 012238Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 AID-05
/131 W

-----041899 012316Z /13

R 012234Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1717
INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02226

LEONARD TO SUPPLY HIM WITH WHATEVER INTELLIGENCE WAS AVAILABLE CONCERNING THESE MISSILES. LEONARD PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

6. REPLYING TO LEONARD'S QUESTION ON OTRAG, BUKETI REPLIED THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS TO IMPROVE ZAIRE'S INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH A COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE. HE SAID NO LAUNCH HAD YET TAKEN PLACE(SIC). HE HEDGED ON LEONARD'S SUGGESTION THAT JOURNALISTS BE INVITED TO VISIT

OTRAG (SEPTTEL), THEREBY DISPELLING RUMORS THAT OTRAG WAS
IN REALITY A MILITARY ENTERPRISE.

7. COMMENT: BUKETI WAS EARNEST, EVEN IMPASSIONED, IN
HIS REQUEST FOR A MISSION LEADING TO MASSIVE HELP FOR
ZAIRE. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE MADE IT WITHOUT AUTHORIZA-
TION FROM HIS AMBASSADOR. ACTION REQUESTED: 1) VIEWS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 02226 02 OF 02 012238Z

OF DEPARTMENT AND CONCERNED POSTS ON IDEA OF A US
(OR WESTERN) "FACT-FINDING" MISSION TO ZAIRES AS PROPOSED
BY BUKETI; 2) DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON BUKETI'S REQUEST
FOR INFORMATION ON ALLEGED GDR MISSILES ALONG ANGOLA/
ZAIRE BORDER. YOUNG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN02226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780230-0195
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806105/aaaadmmf.tel
Line Count: 188
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4ab4417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2153391
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZAIRE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SUMMARY:
DEPUTY PERMREP OF ZAIRE MISSION TO UN AS
TAGS: PEPR, PORC, CG, US, UN, (LEONARD, JAMES F), (BUKAYI MATULOMBELE BUKETI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4ab4417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014